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22 August 1978

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HSCI*

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Reporting on CIA's Liaison Relationships to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence

1. (C) On 18 August 1978 the undersigned met with Thomas K. Latimer, Staff Director, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Michael J. O'Neil, Chief Counsel, and Loch K. Johnson, Staff Director, Subcommittee on Oversight, to discuss possible ground rules for the Agency's reporting on its relationships with liaison services. The Committee staffers provided me with a copy of the November 9, 1977 letter (attached) from Chairman Edward P. Boland (D., Mass.) to the Director of Central Intelligence. The pertinent paragraph is the second one in which the Committee requests "detailed summaries of all intelligence agreements."

2. (S) The basic point made to the Committee staffers is that this Agency regards our liaison relationships as both a source and a method and, therefore, as items that would not normally be responded to in detail to oversight committees. It was further suggested that the Committee really has no need to know the identity of the service or indeed even the country of the service in order to adequately perform its oversight function. While Mr. Johnson and Mr. O'Neil conceded that they do not need the precise identities or even countries of the various services, Mr. Latimer pointed out that certain Committee Members might well insist on knowing the identity of the individual services. What the Committee is now requesting is that we provide the following:



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b. Provide overview of our relationships with the other services. Included in this overview would be the total cost of our liaison relationships, our assessment of the value of those relationships in terms of intelligence produced as well as operational information gained as a result of those relationships.

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Additionally, within the overview the Committee would like to have some estimate as to how many of these relationships are [redacted] relationships, how many are operational relationships (by this they mean services with whom we engage in joint operational activity), those with whom we merely exchange information (such as biographic background on Soviets, etc.) and any other categories which may seem useful.

c. Provide brief descriptions of each of the existing liaison relationships omitting the identity of the service and the identity of the country within which the service functions. This brief rundown on each relationship should include the cost to the U.S. Government and indications of the level of commitments to provide money and/or materiel. With regard to the latter, the Committee will be most interested in commitments to provide liaison services with significant quantities of audio equipment or other kinds of gear which could lend itself to violations of human rights.

d. While the Committee staffers did not request it, I suspect that they soon will request a restatement of our previous assurances that we are not doing through liaison services that which we are proscribed from doing ourselves.

3. (C) The Committee has requested that a paper containing the foregoing be made available to them by 1 November 1978. While none of the foregoing is cast into cement, I would suggest that it goes a long way to give the Committee what it needs to know to adequately perform its oversight mission and at the same time maintain at least a fig leaf of protection for the confidentiality of the relationships with our various foreign liaison services.

4. (U) If there are any problems with any of the foregoing, I would appreciate being advised as soon as possible.

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Assistant Legislative Counsel

Attachment

cc: Acting Legislative Counsel ([redacted])  
ADDO (John H. Stein)  
PCS/ [redacted]

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